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PRODUCE ANTITUBERCULOSIS DRUG

EXPECT ADEQUATE OUTPUT IN 1950 -- Slowo Polskie, No 4, 29 Jan 50

Under the direction of the Ministry of Health, domestic production of PAS (para-amino-salicylic acid), an antituberculosis drug, has been started. A small supply has already been produced for scientific evaluation and for working out production methods. Domestic plants expect adequate production in 1950.

Sweden and Switzerland were the first to start production of PAS. Early reports were very enthusiastic and it appeared that PAS might prove even better than streptomycin. Many tuberculosis patients received the drug from abroad and the Ministry of Health supplied the clinics for scientific research.

So far, it appears that PAS cannot effect a cure, but is a good auxiliary medicine. It prevents the bacilli from multiplying, the temperature drops, the patient coughs less, and gains weight. PAS is more effective in the first stages of the disease, although it is difficult to determine the extent of its effect, since, in that stage of the disease, a patient can often be cured without drugs.

Peculiar difficulties are encountered in administering the drug orally in the form of 0.3-gram tablets. The daily dosage is 3 grams for each 10 kilograms of the patient's weight. One kilogram of PAS is used for the treatment.

In the face of the continued uncertainty as to its curative effect, the Ministry of Health has distributed 6 tons of PAS to the Central Tuberculosis Clinics and to hospitals and sanatoriums to carry on scientific and clinical experiments in the cure.

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SETS UP STREPTOMYCIN COMMISSIONS -- Ziemia Olsztynska, No 47, 16 Feb 50

The Ministry of Health ordered the creation of special streptomycin commissions to pass on prescriptions of streptomycin, to refer patients requiring streptomycin to special medical institutions, and to allocate streptomycin.

Besides physicians, delegates of regional trade-union councils will sit on the streptomycin commissions.

SOVIET HEALTH DELEGATION VISITS SLASK -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 41, 10 Feb 50

Dr Lebedyeva, Prof Dr Khachatryan, and other delegates of the Soviet Public-Health Service left Slask on 8 February 1950 after a 3-day tour of the area. They visited the State Cancer Institute in Gliwice, the Stalin coal mine, the Slask Medical Academy in Rokotnica, and other institutions.

Engineer Jaszczuk greeted the Soviet delegates and Dr Boguslaw Kozusznik, Vice-Minister of Health, thanked the delegates for their advice and assistance.

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